GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:533
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2001
VISIT OF US DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Deputy Secretary of State visited New Delhi recently to discuss the US proposal for a new framework for security and stability in the world in the context of the contemplated global missile shield articulated earlier by the US President; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the discussion and the Government`s stand in regard thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) Yes, sir. The visit of the US Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Richard Armitage, took place on 11th May 2001.

(b) Mr. Armitage elaborated that President Bush`s outlines for a `New Strategic Framework` comprised four elements, i.e., non-proliferation, counter proliferation, missile defence, and a reduction in US strategic nuclear forces. He said that the consultations were exploratory and that he had no details to offer at that stage on the missile defence plans. Government conveyed to Mr. Armitage that the proposed New Strategic Framework, based upon consultation and cooperation rather than confrontation, was a welcome development. The need to not unilaterally abrogate bilateral compacts like the ABM Treaty of 1972 or other similar international commitments was emphasised. It is also India`s expectation that the US would pursue its plans in a manner that enhances regional and international stability and security, and would continue to be guided by the spirit of dialogue, consultation and cooperation. In particular, Government welcomed the US intention regarding reduction in, and de-alerting of, nuclear weapons. India treats this as a step towards winding down of the nuclear arms race. India looks forward to continuing further such exchanges and consultations with the US in future.